

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RIYADH 00297 261328Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----057849 261838Z /72

R 261115Z APR 78
FM USLO RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 438
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T RIYADH 297

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, SA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER ON U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONS

1. DURING MEETING ON APRIL 22 WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD IN RIYADH, AMBASSADOR DELIVERED LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TO KING KHALID REPLYING TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY CROWN PRINCE IN FEBRUARY MEETING CONCERNING NATURE OF SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONSHIP. AMBASSADOR MADE SEVERAL POINTS. HE HAD PERSONALLY DISCUSSED FAHD'S CONCERNS WITH PRESIDENT. PRESIDENT AFTER CONSULTING WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND BRZEZINKI DECIDED TO GIVE WRITTEN RESPONSE TO CROWN PRINCE'S QUESTIONS. PRESIDENT PERSONALLY STUDIED TEXT OF LETTER, MAKING HIS OWN ADDITIONS, AND SIGNED VERSION NOW BEFORE CROWN PRINCE. WHEN AMBASSADOR SAW PRESIDENT ON DAY HE RETURNED TO SAUDI ARABIA, PRESIDENT ASKED THAT LETTER BE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO FAHD. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THOUGHTS AND VIEWS IN LETTER REPRESENT PRESIDENT'S SINCEREST FEELINGS AND ARE RESULT OF CAREFUL STUDY AND THOUGHT. FAHD, WHO HAD SEEN COURTESY COPY OF LETTER PREVIOUSLY DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTER, SAID HE COULD SENSE THE GENUINNESS OF PRESIDENT'S FEELINGS.

2. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT LETTER WAS BASED ON FEELING THAT DESTINY AND SECURITY INTERESTS OF OUR TWO NATIONS ARE SO INTERTWINED THAT
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IT ESSENTIAL WE WORK TOGETHER TO SEE THAT NEITHER ARE THREATENED. REFERRING TO FINAL PARAGRAPH OF LETTER, AMBASSADOR SAID PRESIDENT INSTRUCTED HIM TO PROVIDE A CONTINUING SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON ANYTHING AFFECTING SECURITY OF SAUDI ARABIA. CROWN PRINCE REPLIED THAT INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS AND REGULAR REPORTS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE IN THIS DAY AND AGE FOREWARNED IS TO BE FOREARMED.

GNEHM

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Message Attributes

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